Full-Time Status of the Executive Positions Also Discussed

Township Manager Position Discussed at Board Meeting

BY MARGARET O'KELLEY

At the September 24th Township Board meeting, the Board discussed, at length, the issue of bringing a professional manager to the Township. They also discussed the possibility of changing the full-time status of the supervisor, clerk and treasurer to part time. Both topics generated a lot of discussion and some heated moments as many Board members began to position themselves either in favor or opposed to the part-time concept.

The idea of hiring a professional manager is not a new idea to our community. A prior Board appointed a committee to look into the possibility and that committee returned a recommendation to hire a professional manager. That Board actually created an ordinance to create the position and called the position "Superintendent." The same committee also made a passing reference to part time for some of the executive positions.

However, the previous Board did not act on the position or the issue of part time status. Because of this the executive officers remained full time when they took office in 2000 and the position of the manager remained vacant.

Recently the Concerned Citizens Coalition (C3) hosted a meeting where two

 gentlemen spoke in favor of the concept and the meeting was televised on our public access station. This event seemed to be the impetus for some Board members to revive the issue.

A special Board meeting was held on September 22nd to discuss the concept. The meeting was neither video taped nor audio recorded but The Weekly attended the meeting and it seemed to get off track quickly when several Board members took it upon themselves to criticize the absence of Supervisor Mitchell and expanded their remarks to criticize his performance as supervisor. Trustee Adkins, who was conducting the meeting, tried to get them to focus on the issue but she was not very successful.

Eventually all six Board members agreed they wanted a professional manager hired. Trustee O'Kelley suggested the current ordinance be amended to change the title from Superintendent to Manager and Clerk Bowers suggested the language regarding residency would also need to be changed. The matter was referred to the Township Attorney for review.

Trustee O'Kelley said the name should be changed to Manager because the citizens were more familiar with the term and the law allows a Charter Township to use the word manager. Previously, the term Superintendent was used to describe the position. Clerk Bowers said the current ordinance required residency and the law had been changed in that regard.

Trustee O'Kelley also spoke in favor of making the positions of the executive officers part time and advised he would be prepared to make a motion at the regular board meeting.

Trustee Krause seemed to surprise a few Board members when she presented a proposal written by the Police Chief who suggested the manager's position be combined with the police chief's position. This matter was presented by Krause for future consideration and Krause did not suggest it be acted upon at the present time. This new wrinkle in the debate over a Township Manager seemed to a topic of interest to the Supervisor and Trustee Adkins because they both discussed the subject at the regular Board meeting.

Because of the extensive remarks made on the position of a Township Manager and the full time status of the executive officers, *The Weekly* will present the reporting of the topics in two installments. This week we will report on the Board's actions regarding the Township Manager position and next issue we will report on the remarks of the part time issue.

At the September 24th meeting, Trustee Krause made a motion to advertise for the position of Township Superintendent with the MML (Michigan Municipal League and the MTA (Michigan Township Association). Trustee Adkins immediately asked if this was for a superintendent/ police chief position or just for a superintendent. Krause responded it was just for the superintendent's position. She said she felt that after all the applications were reviewed then they might want to consider the police chief's proposal or any other proposal submitted by a current employee of the Township.

She went on to say that she had checked with several communities and the combinations of positions have worked at other places.

Supervisor Mitchell still seemed to be under the impression the Board was considering the Police Chief's proposal and asked what the education requirements were for the position. Krause responded that information was previously provided. She once again reminded the Board the chief's proposal was not in consideration at this time.

Trutsee O'Kelley said he was not comfortable with starting the process until he knew what the Board's thoughts were on the full-time status of some Board members. He said the duties of the new manager would be based on whether the executive officers were full time or part time. He said he would have liked the board to consider that issue first before seeking a manager.

Trustee Krause responded she felt the selection process would take a long time and she felt it was important to get started now. She referred to the length of time it took to hire a police chief.

Supervisor Mitchell spoke of the financial implications of hiring a manager. He said we were not in great financial condition. He cited the reduction in revenue sharing and budget overruns. He threw out a figure of \$343,000 that may be needed to amend the budget. He acknowledged there was a previous fund balance and felt the balance would be reduced considerable.

He went on to project that if a manager was hired he felt the administrative costs would increase by 50% regardless if we went full time or part time with a manager.

Clerk Bowers said, "you have hit the nail on the head" regarding the costs. She referred to the chief's proposal that called only for

\$5,000 increase in costs. She suggested they needed to look at that.

She went on to suggest that the fees paid to the MML for the search may fail to provide an acceptable candidate and that money would be wasted. She based a \$9,000 search fee on the basis of a Manager's salary pegged at \$90,000.

The Supervisor, apparently detecting the clerk's support for the chief's proposal pointed out that the proposal called for additional staff. He referred to a flow chart that was provided by the chief that called for a administrative assistant and a Deputy Chief of Police. He felt those were hidden costs that must be considered.

He went on to say he has come up with two assumptions. Either the police chief who is full time is under-utilized or he will have to "crank up" and work additional hours.

It was obvious that certain Board members were insisting on discussing the police chief's proposal and that was not the nature of the motion made by Trustee Krause. Eventually, the Board accepted Trustee O'Kelley's recommendation to discuss the issue of part time/full time before proceeding with the township manager position. That discussion will be reported in our next issue.

End of Installment One

the citizens to follow the issues of a professional manager and a part time board. There is a special meeting to be held at 5:30 PM prior to the regular October 8th meeting and we urge you to attend. We also urge you to watch the September 24th Board meeting on the cable access channel 18.

Galendar Sommunit

Monthly Meetings

Second Sunday of each month Open House at the Flat Rock Historical Museum from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monroe County Mothers of Multiples, P.O. Box 207, Carleton, MI, holds a Multiple Birth Support Group offering education, assistance and encouragement on the third Monday of each month at Mercy Memorial Hospital. For more information call Lisa Lothringer at (734) 654-9263.

Waltz Improvement Association meets the fourth Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. on park grounds in Waltz. New members are welcome.

Concerned Citizens Coalition (C3) meetings on first Thurs. of each month at the American Legion Hall at 7:30 p.m. Call 753-4838 for info.

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) meets second and fourth Tues. of each month at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waltz from 9-11 a.m. Child care available. Come for rest, support, crafts, and affirmation for mothers of infants through kindergartenage children. Call 734-753-

The Recreation Committee meets the first Tues. of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the

Huron Township Hall.

Huron Athletic Boosters will meet on May 1, 6 p.m. Meetings are held at Huron High School, Room 134. Call 654-3781 for info.

American Legion Post 337 meets 2nd and 4th Monday 8:00 p.m., 28614 Division St., Flat Rock.

Southwest Wayne County Democratic Club meets the fourth Thurs. of each month at Lakeview Printing, 70 Davis St., Belleville, at 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees meet second and fourth Wed. of each month at 7:00 at the Country Meadows.

The Planning Commission meets the second Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Country Meadows.

Zoning Board of Appeals meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Country Meadows.

Historical Society meets the

third Thurs. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Historical House.

Historical Comm. meets the second Thurs. of each month at the Samuel Adams House at 6:30 p.m.

Huron Township Historical will host an Open House at the Samuel Adams Historical Museum (Downtown New Boston) the 4th Sunday of each month from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Public is welcome.

The Recycling Committee meets the first Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Huron Township Hall.

Telecommunications Committee meets the last Mon. of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Twp. Hall. For information call 734-782-9784.

The VFW Post 6040 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wed. of each month at the American Legion Hall in New Boston.

Flat Rock Rotary meets

every Wednesday at 12:00 noon at Fiorelli's Restaurant in Flat Rock.

Soroptomists International of Flat Rock meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Fiorelli's in Flat

Sons of the Desert

Sons of the Desert (Detroit area Laurel and Hardy Fan Club). They have been showing Laurel and Hardy movies for over 65 years. The meetings are scheduled for March 20, May 15, September 18 and November 20 and are held at Mama Mia's Restaurant, 27770 Plymouth, Livonia, MI. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and show time is at 8:00 p.m. Join them for an evening of laughs and entertainment..

Senior Citizens

Huron Township Senior Citizens are now meeting at the newly renovated Emil A. Krzyske Senior Center on Mineral Springs in Waltz.

Meetings are first Tuesday of each month at noon. Helen Mates will be serving as President of the united groups.

The Senior Citizens van is available for doctor visits, shopping, etc. Please call Senior Director Pam at 654-9281. Check with the Senior Director for Trips scheduled one day to a week. Senior Director's hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Congregate Meals or Meals on Wheels provides a hot meal every day at 11:30 a.m. at the Center.

Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors. Bernice Hearn serves as Director of the Meals on Wheels Program. For information call 654-4549. Flat Rock residents welcome!

Quilting Tuesdays at 9 a.m.

Pinochle every Monday 12:30 p.m.

Commodities 4th Tuesday 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Bingo third and fifth Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

Pot Luck Dinner third Thursday at 4 p.m.

Massage Therapy 9:30 a.m. 1st Monday

Shopping at Meijer's every Thursday. Leave Senior Center at 12:30 p.m.

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"Letters to the Editor" are welcome but must include the name of the author, address and phone number so authentication can be verified. We cannot be responsible for misspellings and use of grammar submitted by the writer. Every effort will be made to print the letter in its entirety. We reserve the right to omit profanity and any statement that is clearly, by minimum standards, improper. Maximum 200 words. The views expressed in "Letters to the Editor" do not necessarily reflect the view of The Huron River Weekly/Flat Rock Rock Weekly/Carleton Crier or of the Huron Communication Services Inc.

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Rep.Law: Humbug Marsh Ruling "Great News"

State Rep. Kathleen Law (D-Gibraltar) today praised the ruling of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Marci McIvor, who ordered Made in Detroit, Inc., to sell Humbug Marsh to the Trust for Public Land to satisfy creditors. The Trust for Public Land is a national organization that conserves land for people to enjoy

as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Made in Detroit had planned to build luxury homes and a golf course on the site.

Law has been a long-time advocate for the preservation of Humbug Marsh.

Made in Detroit had until

Sept. 25 to appeal McIvor's ruling. If that appeal is denied, the sale will go through, and Trust for Public Land will donate the 400 acres of Humbug Marsh to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, ensuring that the site remains a sanctuary for dozens of species of fish and waterfowl.

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Flat Rock Library Open **House Set for Oct. 4th**

Flat Rock Public Library announces an Open House of the Winifred May Oestrike Hamilton Local History collection on Saturday Oct. 4 from 1 to 4 p.m.

A presentation to acknowledge the volunteers from the Flat Rock Historical Society will be held at 1:30 p.m. Seven volunteers did most of the work of turning 54 boxes of materials, including photographs, into organized and labeled files. Total number of volunteer hours is currently 872. The project leader, Lila Fedokovitz, has given over 300 hours and plans to contribute more.

"A 22 x 15 room that was being used as a computer training center and quiet study area has been transformed into the Local History room, thanks to the Flat Rock Historical Society", explains Library Director Marney

Cooley. "The Library didn't know we were going to inherit Winnie's collection so we didn't have any archival supplies or fireproof filing cabinets in the budget. We couldn't have completed this project without the generosity of the Historical Society."

Mrs. Cooley said that the general public has not been allowed to see the materials yet. The contents of the 54 boxes had to be sorted, labeled, and given a subject heading. Newspaper clippings were photocopied and hundreds of pictures had to be identified. Library staff created an index to the files. The Obituary File takes up 18 drawers of cards. Guardian newspapers dating from 1939 are too fragile for public use; they will eventually be microfilmed and digitized.

The Library received a grant from the Library of Michigan to train a librarian on digitization procedures, using the equipment at Wayne State University. Funeral records from Bobcean Funeral Home were chosen as the priority digitization project. Future plans include digitization of pictures and genealogical information to be available on the library's website.

Genealogists and researchers are now welcome to use the Local History resources on Monday and Tuesday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mrs. Cooley explained that the room was still being used for computer training at other times. Although the collection will be available during these times, staff help will only be available Thursdays and Saturdays. Library staff will not do genealogy searches, but can make referrals. Visitors must sign in at the Service Desk with current ID.

Flat Rock Public Library will also host the book discussion/lecture developed by Madonna University on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The book to be explored is "Monkeys" by Susan Minot. Flat Rock Librray has several copies to loan.

The featured lecturer is Will Horwath, Ph.D., who is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of English at Madonna. His lectures are very popular; he adds a broad career background to his love of literature. This meeting is the second in a series entitled: Contemporary Female Short Story Writers. Four lectures, each with a different speaker, were designed to encourage downriver residents to participate: meetings are rotated between Flat Rock Library, Southgate Library, and the Madonna Downriver Center. The speakers were chosen by the Dean of Arts & Humanities at Madonna for their knowledge and experience with book discussion groups.

The series will continue in early 2004 if these fall programs are successful. All programs are free. More information or a flyer can be obtained at Flat Rock Public Library 734 782-2430.

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Zavodsky Accepts Challenges On and Off the Race Track!

While at the Bob Bon- could be job security! durant school, Audrey Zavodsky was challenged to drive the heavy equipment that was being used in construction nearby. The operators of the equipment were surprised when Audrey accepted the challenge and climbed on a large earth mover and promptly drove away with it. When she came back with the vehicle, she arrived with a smile and a wave.

However, the drivers of the equipment wanted her to try the back hoe. After a few minutes of instruction, Audrey was scooping up dirt and moving it. The operators of the equipment said that this was the first time a race driver had accepted their challenge to drive the equip-

Zavodsky was to have a practice session this past Saturday at the Bondurant school race track. There were to be only 2 cars on the track. Word travels fast and other drivers showed up. One young driver in particular who drives regularly at this track and considers himself fast, waited for Audrey to come around after he had warmed up his tires on his race car. After she passed him, he tried to catch her and couldn't. He then tried to stay with her with the net result that he ended up in several off-road excursions. He finally called it a day and parked his race car. As he was walking away, he was heard to say, "I can't believe that I was ment. Who knows... this beat by a girl!"

Huron High School Participates in "Pennies for Patients" Program

Students at Huron High School are participating in The Annual Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program, which raises funds to find cures for leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma research and for patient services. Pennies for Patients is one of the Society's National School & Youth Programs. It was a double benefit in that it allows students to develop compassion and learn the value of helping others while they are working for a good cause.

For the third year, pop recording artist Mandy Moore will serve as the program's National Honorary Chairperson along with the US National Soccer Players. "At the end of the last school year, I made a commitment to continue to work for this important cause," Ms. Moore said. "I participated in the School & Youth Programs when I was in school and continue to be very passionate about supporting the important work of the Society." To reinforce her commitment, last May Moore visited the top fundraising school in the country to congratulate and recognize students for their fundraising activities.

Frenchtown Mall Offers Incentives

Frenchtown Square Mall offers an incentive program to coincide with the Back-to-School shopping season to reward local schools for showing school spirit. Shoppers redeem store receipts for points that go towards a particular school district or school.

The first introduction of the program rewarded only school districts, and Airport was the recipient of the first reward; a prize of \$1,000. After revising the program, the incentive now lasts all year and has since divided into three categories; high school (\$2,500), middle school (\$1,500) and elementary school (\$1,000).

Since the program was revised, Wagar Middle School has won two terms for the middle school category at \$1,500 each.

Wagar Principal Mark Arnold indicated that \$1,500 was spent on new benches for the front of the building, and that \$1,500 will be used to support the Excel program. The Excel program is an incentive to reward good behavior and good citenship for students grades six through eight.

Thanks to all who participate in the program. Your continued support is appreciated.

The Huron Pennies for Patients Program will run for a three week period from Oct. 6-24. The class collecting the most pennies and other spare change in the school will receive a complimentary pizza luncheon from Hungry Howie's. Gift certificates for educational materials will be presented to the top schools in the state. If you'd like to make a donation, please drop it off at the school.

School administrators appreciate the value of having students work with a goal of helping others. "Our students' involvement with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society reminds them of the importance of being involved with the community and helping those in need," said Wendy Gietzen, school coordinator. "This is a wonderful program for us to take part in and the expected results of our stu-

Hours: M-F, 8-6, Sat. 8-4

dents' efforts will benefit an outstanding organization."

During the 2002-2003 school year, six million students in 12,000 schools across the country raised \$10.5 million through the Pennies for Patients program. "This really shows kids that they have the power to make a dramatic difference in the lives of people who need their help," said Christina Lombardo, Campaign Manager at the Michigan chapter. "The support of New Boston students will really help us in our mission of finding cures for these blood-related cancers and helping patients and their families deal with these diseases."

For information on the Pennies for Patients program or on the programs and services available at the Michigan chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, call 1-800-456-5413.

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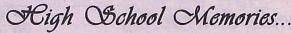
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Ocops. Birthday forgotten again? Time may be right to remind all who are mindless. Fortune misses your hand. Watch out for pie in face. Parade around town in high fashion.

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

Anger at local community will not solve problems. Think ahead to outdo all who try to bring you down. Basic instincts give you knowledge to slide out from troubled places. Caution needed.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Children enjoy a long day with friends. Spouse asks for help. Ride thru town may not be advisable this weekend. Ask for time alone but don't expect time spent without fuse.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

Seldom seen and heard may be right venue for you this week. Spouse on edge of fence looking for right side. Overspent money finds you in a bind that won't be easily remedied. 2889

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

News travels fast but not as fast as cars down dirt roads. Signs of time bring to end all you once knew. Take time to keep peace with one who has forgotten or thought you had. Used again?

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Less time at festival is more money in your pocket but don't be a scrooge so early. Spend time listening to good music and enjoying friends. Look to the ground for answers to events.

3788

Aries Mar 21 - April 20

No one sees truth less than you unless it is your own truth. Less time spent glaring in mirror brings true self to light. Soon a new love will drive in your heart. But weapon may not be good.

Taurus April 21 - May 21

With nuts or without. Decisions are hard but you can take all the time you need. Forces of life strengthen with festival lights but don't be fooled by glare in

Gemini May 22 - June 21

Take children for a ride to find fun but remember not to blow entire paycheck on junk. Keep basic needs with spouse met. Look into soul for meaning of love before it is lost. 004

Cancer June 22 - July 23

Stop before you go off wrong fence and end long-time relationship. Look at what others have destroyed. Trees turn color to tell you of need to prepare for fast approaching cold.

Horoscopes

William Grover

Leo July 24 - Aug 23

Someone hurts for time alone with you. Another wants to know the truth. Party below the bridge may be fun but just another day gone by. Look around to find lost money. You will find it.

176

Virgo Aug 24 - Sept 23

Never seen end finds you holdingthe bag. Friends continue to shun you. Speak kindly of past but don't expect special ones to forget. You rave at local event and surprise those who care. 419

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Chili Un Carne

Autumn is in the air and everyone is yearning for a little warmth in your menu. Chili is everybody's favorite thing to eat when it's Chilly out side. Through the month of October I will be sharing my favorite soup recipes, starting with the great Chili Un Carne. Take one of these soups to your next tailgate event.

Chili Un Carne - Serves 4 - 6

1 15 oz. can Dark Kidney Beans - drained

1 15 oz. can Red Beans

- drained 1 15 oz. can Chili Beans

in sauce 1 4 oz. can chopped

Green Chilis

1 15 oz. can Diced Tomatoes

1 15 oz. can Tomato Sauce

1/2 cup Onion - chopped

1/2 cup Bell Pepper - chopped

1/2 cup Carrot - chopped
1 cup Portabello Mushroom

chopped

1/4 cup Red Wine

1 tbs. Chili Powder

1 tsp. Cumin

1 - 2 tbs. Louisianna Hot Sauce

1 tsp. or less Salt

1/2 tsp. Pepper

Combine all of the ingredients in a covered soup pot. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 45 minutes to 1 hour. Stir occasionally.

'Go ahead and add some browned ground meat if you must, but it really is better without it.

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K of C to Hold Annual "Blue Mass" to Honor **Men and Women in Blue**

Attention, all men and women in blue. Policemen, firemen and EMS. We are inviting active, reserves, full time, part time, or former.

The Flat Rock Knights of Columbus Council #5446 and the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly #2304 invite you to our 3rd Annual "Blue Mass" to be held November 9, 2003 at St. Roch's Church at 25022 Gibraltar Rd., Flat Rock.

The Church Service will begin at 11:30 and we ask you be there 15 minutes early so we can seat you. We have picked this Sunday before Thanksgiving and will try to hold it the same time each

The men and women in blue have come to the forefront like never before. They have always been respected, but never like they are today. We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation for what you do every day of the week.

We are inviting you and your family to attend this service, in you honor. We would appreciate it if you would wear your uniform.

There will be members of the Knights present to assist in the service. There will be breakfast served after the service. You and all family members will be our guests.

If you can be with us on this day, call Woody Patterson, Grand Knight (734) 692-1367 or James Leonard, Deputy Grand Knight (734) 671-5818. We need a head count for seating and breakfast.

This service is open to all, regardless of religion.

We would appreciate a representative from every downriver community at this service, but as many as you want. Please RSVP, (734) 692-1367, (734) 671-5818, or (734) 782-3044.

Reach the buyers in the downriver area and advertise in the Weekly! 734-753-4416

AUTOS FOR SALE

1997 Ford Aspire, 2-door, 4-cylinder. Good Condition. \$2,000. or best offer. 734-782-0186 1986 Camaro - Good body for restoration -Florida car. Needs Engine rebuilt. "Son off to college - Dad needs space." \$1000.00 OBO (734) 753-3201

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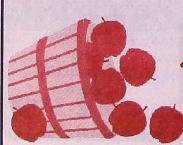
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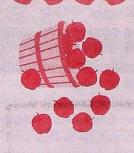
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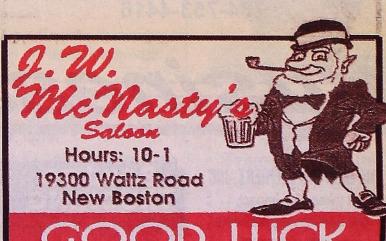


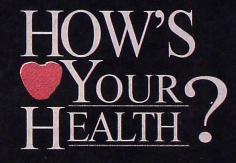
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